

Dodge County Officials Remind Drivers to Stay Safe This Construction Season

Dodge County Highway Commissioner Brian Field urges people to drive carefully in highway work zones throughout the 2021 construction season.

National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week takes place April 26 through 30. This year's theme is *Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives*. Wednesday, April 28, is "Go Orange Day," in which people are asked to wear something orange in support of highway safety.

In Wisconsin, work zones include major highway construction and rehabilitation, maintenance, emergency response, utility work, municipal projects, and more – any time in which there are flashing lights, signs, barrels, or workers on the road.

We ask everyone on the road to eliminate distractions and be mindful of speed. Even in areas with reduced speed limits, things can happen in an instant. Always expect the unexpected.

Highway Improvement projects in Dodge County this year include the following sections:

- CTH M (CTH E – CTH JM) Reconstruction
- CTH BB (STH 19 – STH 16/60)
- CTH CP (CTH G – Derge Park)
- CTH AC (Randolph – CTH C)
- CTH I (STH 26 – STH 49)
- CTH TW (STH 28 – CTH Y)
- CTH TW (CTH V – CTH WT)
- CTH S (Iron Ridge – CTH P)
- CTH EM (CTH R – CTH ME)

While typical construction work zones are prevalent throughout the county and state, there are also significant numbers of maintenance operations that may be short-term or moving operations. Drivers are reminded of the state's Move Over Law which requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down in order to provide a safety buffer for a squad car, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, utility vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle that is stopped on the side of a road with its warning lights flashing.

Before hitting the road, drivers are encouraged to check 511 Wisconsin (511wi.gov and @511WI on Twitter), or use the 511 Wisconsin smartphone app for updates on road conditions and traffic flow.

Giving undivided attention to the road:

- Don't fool around. Eliminate distractions like eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or fiddling with electronic devices.
- Expect the unexpected. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road.
- Slow down. A car traveling 60 MPH travels 88 feet per second, and the faster you go the longer it takes to stop.
- Give yourself room. Rear-end collisions are the most common work zone crashes, so don't tailgate.
- Allow about three seconds of braking distance. Look for signs. Orange, diamond-shaped signs usually give you ample warning of lane closings, construction areas, flaggers, and other workers ahead.
- Be patient. If you don't see workers, that doesn't mean they're not there. Observe the signs until you see one that says you've left the work zone.
- Plan ahead. Leave early or map out an alternate route. Find the latest road conditions and work zone news at 511 Wisconsin.
- Follow the law. Slow down and move over, if possible, when you see flashing lights.
- Consider turning off the phone until you reach your destination.
- During a long drive, consider leaving a voice mail explaining how long you'll be unavailable.
- If you have to make a call, find a secure place to pull over and stop such as a wayside or a gas station.

Learn more: <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/workzone/default.aspx>